

REMARKS

Claims 1-30 were previously pending. Noted with appreciation is the indication that claim 6 has been allowed. Also noted with appreciation is the indication that claims 4, 19, and 21 are directed at allowable subject matter, and would be allowed if rewritten in independent form. As such, claims 4, 19, and 21 have been rewritten in independent form and thus, are in condition for allowance. Claims 1-3, 5, 7-18, 20, and 22-30 have been canceled. Applicants reserve the right to file a continuation application that presents the subject matter of claims 1-3, 5, 7-18, 20, and 22-30 for further consideration on the merits. Applicants respectfully submit that the foregoing amendments place the present application in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

It is clear from the foregoing that independent claims 4, 6, 19, and 21 are in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and an early indication of the allowance of the claims are respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the below-listed number if a telephone conference would expedite or aid the prosecution and examination of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

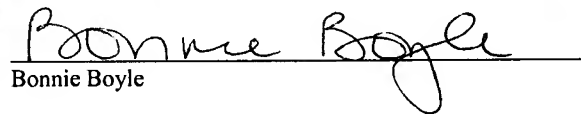


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